

REMARKS

Consideration of the amendments is respectfully requested. The amendments find support in the application as originally filed and adds no new matter pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(f). The amendments are made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

Status of Claims

Claims 20-25, 31-34, 36 and 38-40 are pending in this application.

Claims 26-30, 35 and 37 have been canceled.

Claims 39-40 have been added.

Claims 20-25, 31-24, 36 and 38 have been amended.

Specification

Regarding paragraphs 1 of the Office Action (Advisory), since the amendment after final has not been entered. The issue of new matter should be removed.

Claims

Regarding paragraph 2 of the Office Action (Advisory), Claims 20-24 have been amended to better clarify Applicant's invention. The language "low allowable error threshold" and "higher allowable error threshold" have been removed from Claim 20.

Claim 28 has been cancelled.

Dependent Claims 39 and 40 have been added to positively claim either a FEC protocol or an ARQ protocol and support can be found in the specification, at page 9, lines 3-8.

Claim 25 has been amended also to remove the language “first error correction protocol” and “second error correction protocol.” Such language has been replaced with “a high priority processing step” and “low priority processing step.” Support can be found in the specification, on page 9, lines 9-16. Furthermore, the language “a high priority processing step” and “low priority processing step” is not taught by the prior art of record.

Claims 35 and 37 have been cancelled.

In view of the above remarks, the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

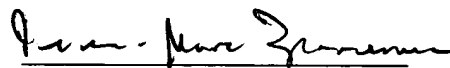
Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, Claims 20 and 25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 21-24 and 31-34, 36, 38 and 39-40 depend directly or indirectly from one of independent Claims 20 and 25. Thus, for the same reasons set forth above with regard to Claims 20 and 25, Claims 21-24, 31-34, 36, 38 and 39-40 are allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, the Applicant believes that they have overcome all of the examiner's basis for rejection, and that this application therefore stands in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that such action can not be taken, the Applicant requests that he contact their undersigned attorney at (908) 654-8000 in order to resolve any outstanding issues without the necessity of issuing another Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean-Marc Zimmerman, Esq.
Reg. No. 36,978
226 St. Paul Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-8000

Dated: February 28, 2003
Westfield, New Jersey

The marked up version of the amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is set forth below.

Marked Up Version of Amendment

20. (Amended) A method for partitioning a video image between a foveated area and a background area comprising the steps of:

defining a foveation point in the video image;

defining a foveated area in proximity to said foveation point;

extracting a first plurality of data signals from said video image representing said foveated area;

extracting a second plurality of data signals from said video image representing a background area;

encoding the extracted first plurality of data signals with a first error correction protocol [that is based on a low allowable error threshold] to create a first encoded signal; and

encoding the extracted second plurality of data signals with a second error correction protocol different from the first error correction protocol to create a second encoded signal [, the second error correction protocol has a higher allowable error threshold].

21. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20[,] wherein the step of defining said foveation point comprises the step of:

pointing a video device at a location of the image using a means for pointing.

22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 21[,], wherein the pointing means comprises at least one of: a computer keyboard; a computer mouse; a joystick, and an eye tracking device.

23. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20[,], further comprising the step of:
calculating a local bandwidth threshold based on said foveation point; and
wherein the step of defining said foveation area comprises the steps of:
calculating a local bandwidth for each pixel group in said video image; and
incorporating those pixel groups having a respective local bandwidth above said local bandwidth threshold into said foveation area.

24. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20[,], further comprising the steps of:
packetizing the first encoded signal with inserted synchronization markers occurring after a first predetermined number of bits; and
packetizing the second encoded signal with the inserted synchronization markers occurring after a second predetermined number of bits wherein the first number is smaller than the second number.

25. (Amended) A method for the processing [and transmitting] of video image data received from a first electronic device [to a second electronic device], [comprising the steps of:
in] the first electronic device having performed the steps of:

defining a foveation point in a video image;

defining at least one foveated area around said foveation point;
extracting a first plurality of data signals representing said foveated area;
extracting a second plurality of data signals representing a background area;
encoding the extracted first plurality of data signals with a first error correction protocol
to create a first encoded signal; and
encoding the extracted second plurality of data signals with a second error correction
protocol different from the first error correction protocol to create a second encoded signal,;
transmitting the first and second encoded signals to the second electronic device;
in the second electronic device] the method comprising the steps of:
decoding the first transmitted encoded signal [;] and
correcting errors within the first transmitted encoded signal [using the first error
correction protocol] with use of a high priority processing step to create a received foveated area;
and
decoding the second transmitted encoded signal[;] and
correcting errors within the second transmitted encoded signal [using the second
error correction protocol] with use of a low priority processing step to create a received
background area.

31. (Amended) The method according to Claim [25,] 20 wherein the first plurality of
data signals comprises all pixel signals included in a high-resolution area of said video image.

32. (Amended) The method according to Claim [25,] 20 wherein the first plurality of data signals comprises all pixel signals that are included in a high motion area of said video image.

33. (Amended) The method according to Claim [25,] 20 wherein the first error correction protocol comprises at least one of parity checks, cyclic redundancy checks, forward error correction algorithms, automatic repeat request algorithms or error resiliency conforming to video communications industry standards H263++ and/or MPEG-4.

34. (Amended) The method according to Claim [25,] 20 wherein the second error correction protocol comprises at least one of parity checks, cyclic redundancy checks, forward error correction algorithms, or error resiliency conforming to video communications industry standards H263++ and/or MPEG-4.

36. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20 [25, wherein the transmitting step comprises] further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the first encoded signal; and

transmitting the second encoded signal at a predetermined time after the transmitting of said first encoded signal.

38. (Amended) The method according to Claim 25[,] further comprising the step of:
combining the received foveated area and the received background area to create the
video image data.